

According to the Justice Department, 50,000 pedophiles at any one time are on MySpace.com and other social networking sites looking for kids.

MySpace.com is now the number one Internet site, with tens of millions of childrens' postings online. It has turned into a virtual hunting ground for predators seeking to attack kids. Since m MySpace has accepted the postings for millions of kids, I believe they have a special duty to protect them.

Parents need to know more about this new 21st century threat to kids. That is why the high school class presidents of my Student Leadership Advisory Board chose to warn parents about dangers online through Public Service Announcements to run on Comcast.

I also joined with the Chairman of the Subcommittee that funds the Federal Trade Commission, asking the Commission to issue a national consumer alert, calling on parents to get more involved to reduce this new threat to children.

I want to give a special thanks to the Wheeling High School Student Body President, Julie Wachtenheim. Last year, a predator contacted Julie using her web page on MySpace.com. She did the right thing: she didn't answer him and blocked the sender (a 40 year old pedophile). Let's hope we can get all kids to do the same.